

THE KABUL TiMES

www.thekabultimes.com | twitter.com/thekabultimes | info@thekabultimes.com | facebook.com/thekabultimes

Founded in 1962 | Hoot 01-1403 Wednesday 19 February 2025 INo: 279-Vol: LXII | DAILY

Kabul 07° Rainy | Kandahar 16° Rainy | Herat 11° Sunny | Jalalabad 18° Rainy | Mazar-e-Sharif 11° Rainy | Bamyan -4° Snow

Prime Minister chairs 16th cabinet meeting



KABUL: The sixteenth cabinet meeting of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, was held with Prime Minister Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, on the chair, discussing various issues on the agenda, Arg said in a statement Tuesday.

The meeting discussed various issues and emphasized the need for Emirati companies to expedite the process of electricity supply to the country and take necessary steps in this regard, the statement said.

During the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs was tasked to organize a meeting with the Ministry of Water and Energy and Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (the Country's main power supply company) to clarify their respective responsibilities in detail.

Also, the Ministry of Economy was assigned to coordinate with relevant agencies regarding the implementation of development projects and to monitor their costs in a timely manner.

The Kabul Times

Education, counter-narcotics among issues discussed in Muttaqi, Tariq Bakheet meeting in Kabul



KABUL: Mawlavi Amir Khan Muttaqi, the acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, in a meeting with Tariq Bakheet, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and Special Representative for Afghanistan, and his accompanying delegation discussed education, counter-narcotics and economic issues, the ministry said in a statement Tuesday.

Both sides also held talks on humanitarian and developmental aid, as well as enhancing the representation of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan within the organization, the statement said.

Reflecting on the Islamic Emirate's accomplishments in security, economy, education, counter-narcotics, and positive engagement with regional and international partners, Muttaqi emphasized that the country's situation significantly differs from the portrayal in foreign media.

He hoped that foreign countries would witness the actual circumstances firsthand, rather than relying solely on media depictions, underscoring that altering the long-standing image shaped by decades of conflict is only viable through direct observation of the realities.

Meanwhile, Tariq Bakheet said: "Our presence in Afghanistan signifies our intent to observe the truth directly, without intermediaries, and to consider various perspectives. Nonetheless, our decisions will be made autonomously and based on factual information." He emphasized a commitment to an impartial approach in their engagements with Afghanistan, advocating for locating and presenting accurate information, assuring that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation remains dedicated to supporting Afghanistan through diverse means.

The Kabul Times

ISIS has no physical presence in Afghanistan



KABUL: Abdul Matin Qani, the spokesperson of the Ministry of Interior said the other day that ISIS has been completely suppressed in Afghanistan and has no physical presence.

Speaking to TOLOnews, Qani said that, according to their information, the recent ISIS attacks were planned outside Afghanistan's borders in neighboring countries.

Qani said the Islamic Emirate is working to neutralize ISIS's cross-border attacks as well.

"ISIS does not exist in Afghanistan at all and has reached zero. We completely reject their presence," he said, adding that the recent incidents we have witnessed have roots beyond our borders.

"There were evidence and documents proving they are organized from neighboring countries, and their citizens are involved. We were working to establish relations with those countries to eliminate ISIS beyond our borders as well," the spokesperson further said, assuring that Afghanistan's soil will not be used against other countries.

Meanwhile, a number of political analysts stressed that the roots of ISIS-Khorasan should be traced and pursued outside Afghanistan's borders because the intelligence and technology of regional and global countries are highly advanced, and they know well where ISIS-Khorasan originates from.

Previously, the Islamic Emirate's Central Commission for Security and Clearance Affairs had also stated that based on credible information, newly recruited fighters are being transferred through Karachi and Islamabad airports to centers in Balochistan and the tribal areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to carry out attacks in the region and globally, especially in Afghanistan.

The Kabul Times

MoU signed to provide refugees, IDPs with assistance, ministry



KABUL: The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation said Tuesday in a statement that it has signed a cooperation agreement with the Danish Refugee Council, valued at $1.1 million to provide needy families with essential assistance in provinces.

Based on the agreement, 298,556 individuals, including returnees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and members of the host community will receive necessary aids in Kabul, Kandahar, Parwan, Zabul, Ghazni, Maidan Wardak, Kapisa, Herat, Badghis, Farah, and Kunar provinces.

The Ministry emphasizes the importance of collaboration with international organizations to address the ongoing humanitarian needs in the country.

Previously, the ministry has signed various MoUs with some domestic and foreign institutions to provide essential and lifesaving assistance for returnees and displaced persons nationwide.

The Kabul Times

Noor Jalal holds talks on expanding health cooperation with Japanese Ambassador



KABUL: The acting Minister of Public Health of the Islamic Emirate, Mawlavi Noor Jalal Jalali, met with Takayoshi Kuromiya, the Japanese Ambassador to Kabul, to discuss expanding health cooperation, the ministry said in a statement Tuesday.

Mawlavi Jalali expressed gratitude for Japan's ongoing support with Afghanistan and outlined the ministry's new national policies, aimed at improving coordination, reducing inefficiencies, addressing current health issues, and advancing a self-sustaining health system in the country.

The Japanese Ambassador reaffirmed his country's commitment to continue health cooperation with Afghanistan.

It should be said that the ministry held a workshop on Monday to explain newly developed National Policies.

Speaking at the workshop, Mawlavi Jalali emphasized the vital role of the newly formulated national health policy by his-led ministry to provide equitable and standardized healthcare services to all citizens over the next five years.

He considered this policy a significant achievement in the health sector since the establishment of the Islamic Emirate.

"This policy will guide us in advancing the healthcare sector by working closely with our partners, adhering to organized principles and coordinated efforts while optimizing available resources.

All priorities for the well-being of the people will be established in line with this policy," he said.

The acting public health minister further emphasized: "Our goal is to provide consistent and high-quality services to all residents of the country.

Achieving this objective requires a comprehensive national policy. Fortunately, the ministry with the expertise of its internal specialists, has successfully developed this policy, which will not only ensure the delivery of superior healthcare services to all citizens over the next five years but also foster significant progress in the sector."

The Kabul Times

Police arrest six kidnappers, rescue two people, Qani

KABUL: The spokesman of the Ministry of Interior Affairs Mufti Abdul Matin Qani, said in a post on his X account Tuesday that the country's police forces have released two people and arrested kidnappers.

"The police, after identifying the location of the kidnappers, launched an operation and rescued the individuals, in the 7th police district of the capital Kabul," Qani said, adding that the security personnel have also arrested six kidnappers.

The abducted individuals are residents of Parwan province and were kidnapped some time ago in Iran, with a ransom of $150,000 demanded from their families for their release, Qani further said.

The cases of the arrested individuals were sent to judicial organs for further investigation into their files. The country's police forces are working around the clock to crack down on the activities of malicious groups and further maintain security across the country. **The Kabul Times**

DAB delegation in Russia to attend Cybersecurity Conference in Finance



KABUL: A delegation led by the Governor of the Central Bank, Mawlavi Noor Ahmad Agha left for Russia to participate in an international Conference on Cybersecurity in finance, the bank said in a statement the other day.

The conference will be hosted by the Oral Association from February 19 to 21 in Yekaterinburg city of Russia and will feature representatives, experts, and researchers from various countries' financial sectors, discussing financial security, modern banking systems, and effective measures against cyber threats, the statement said.

A series of important issues, including enhancing resilience against cyber-attacks, safeguarding digital banking, and developing security frameworks for new technologies, will be discussed at the conference, the statement further said. Officials from the Central Bank of Afghanistan have expressed that the delegation aims to gain new experiences in cybersecurity and strengthen measures to protect the country's banking sector. **The Kabul Times**

International-Daily
WWW.TheKabulTimes.com
Uzair Baryalay, Director of Govt. Dailies
Email: Atvaishan@gmail.com
Editor-in-Chief, Nik Mohammad Nikmal
Email: Nikmal@TheKabulTimes.com
Mob: (+93)700 208 103
Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Fathulbari Akhgar
Mob: (+93)748 076 223
Distribution: 0202 312 509-(+93)766 044 966)
Graphic designers: Baktash Shiabani, Ali and Habibullah Aiman
Translators: Abdul Baqi Haqyar, Noor Ahmad and Hamid Jhwok
Cartoonist: Sayed Hassan Samedi
Address: 8th PD, Olympic Square, East of Chaman-e-Huzori, Kabul, Afghanistan

Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Creating proper environment for investment of utmost importance

Economic growth is considered a fundamental principle for the prosperous life of any country and society.

For Afghanistan's economic growth, investment is one of the most essential elements.

If a properly organized and proper environment is created for investment, it can significantly strengthen the country's economy.

Currently, Afghanistan is at a crucial stage of economic development and self-sufficiency.

With the improvement of the overall security situation across the country, Afghanistan has entered a new phase of being a proper place for industrialists and businessmen to invest.

The Islamic Emirate has created all the necessary facilities for industrialists and businessmen to invest in various areas with full confidence.

In the past over three years, steps have been taken and special attention has been paid to the development and prosperity of the country's industry and trade, resulting in the attraction of more investment to the country.

With the improvement of the overall security situation, factories have started operations in the fields of medicine, oil extraction, cement production, iron smelting, blanket manufacturing, agricultural products, and many other sectors.

Efforts are underway to provide more opportunities for foreign and domestic investors as well as Afghan industrialists and businessmen living abroad to invest in the country.

The Islamic Emirate values the return of industrialists and businessmen to the country and has repeatedly called on them to come to their country to invest and contribute to the country's development.

To further pave the investment environment for industrialists and businessmen, it is time that relevant government institutions should work on establishing simple and transparent laws for investors. It is also essential to ensure that investors are provided with security and stability in every aspect.

Besides, cooperation between relevant government institutions and the private sector is vital for improving the investment environment.

The relevant government institutions should work together with the private sector and other economic stakeholders to explore investment opportunities in various sectors.

This cooperation can create new and effective opportunities for investment in different parts of the country.

It is also time that the government should work towards improving banks and financial institutions to better support investors.

Providing special facilities for loans and taxes, as well as implementing national and international tax policies, can create a safe and trustworthy environment for investors.

The Islamic Emirate should also invest in infrastructure development across the country and provide logistics and energy resources.

It is good that the government has already started investing in infrastructure development as investments have been made in major roads, electricity, and telecommunications, which can build a sense of trust among investors.

With providing all necessary facilities to industrialists and businessmen and improvement of the investment environment, both foreign and domestic investments will increase in the country, and with increasing investment in various areas, more professional and skilled Afghans will be employed, which will lead to a considerable reduction in the unemployment rate in the country.

Role of media in shaping public opinion

Part II

Over the past twenty years, media in Afghanistan have played a key role in shaping public opinion and guiding society toward awareness and development.



Continuing the discussion on the role of media in shaping public opinion, it must be said that one of the key debates among sociologists is the relationship between media and politics.

While this relationship may seem well-defined and simple at first glance, in reality, it is highly complex and profound.

In many countries, media outlets do not function as independent institutions; rather, they become tools for government and political party propaganda.

In such cases, instead of reflecting reality, media primarily shape reality in line with the interests of those in power. This situation leads to a decline in public trust in the media, making it difficult for people to access the truth.

Despite these challenges, in today's world, media remains one of the most important tools for shaping public opinion and promoting collective culture.

Media outlets that can operate without censorship and political pressure contribute to an informed society and pave the way for more conscious decision-making.

In such conditions, media can play a supervisory role over power, preventing political and economic exploitation.

In countries like Afghanistan, where media have experienced significant growth in recent years, their role in raising awareness and mobilizing public opinion is particularly prominent.

However, challenges such as censorship, threats against journalists, media exploitation for personal and group interests, the lack of meaningful content, weak media management, and the imitation of Western media styles still persist.

To establish independent and professional media, it is essential to support journalists, strengthen media literacy, build capacity for producing valuable content, establish ethical principles, promote media awareness among the public, and create laws to combat the spread of misinformation.

How media are utilized depends on the level of public awareness, the management of media officials, the independence of media institutions, and the extent of political influence on media structures.

The freer and more ethically committed the media are, the more informed and stable the society will be.

While the benefits of media activities in Afghanistan cannot be overlooked, their negative consequences must also be acknowledged.

Over the past twenty years, media in Afghanistan have played a key role in shaping public opinion and guiding society toward awareness and development.

Unfortunately, with excessive external support and the influx of enormous wealth into Afghanistan, media outlets became unrestrained, leading to a sharp increase in their numbers.

On one hand, the number of media outlets grew daily, but on the other hand, this quantitative expansion resulted in a decline in quality.

Toward the end of the Republic era, some media outlets, instead of informing the public, began broadcasting low-quality content, turning the crisis of content deficiency into a significant issue.

Many media organizations lacked strategic planning and meaningful content, which not only failed to create a lasting impact on society but also left negative consequences.

In essence, purposeful programming in media should involve producing content based on the real needs of the people, understanding political and social conditions, and creating narratives that educate and empower the audience.

Content creation in media is essential, and any negligence in this process can lead to harmful consequences for society.

Before producing any media content, an accurate understanding of the audience must be obtained, as media exists for the audience.

If the audience's psychology is not properly understood, their attention will shift toward external media sources.

In Afghanistan, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity necessitates extensive research on the religious and informational needs of the people.

For example, what is important to young people in Kabul may not be a priority for rural residents in Helmand.

Therefore, media programs should be designed based on real data and sociological analyses. **FiroozAhmad Ebrahemi**



Increasing trade between Afghanistan & India

The trade relations between Afghanistan and India have increased considerably in the past one year.

Based on Indian media reports, India's trade equation with Afghanistan has witnessed a shift with the Islamic Emirate takeover in mid-August 2021. According to the report, India's imports from Afghanistan touched a record $642.29 million in 2023 – 24, while the country's exports slumped to a 16-year low during the period.

This shift gains significance as New Delhi has initiated its highest-level contact yet with the Islamic Emirate. This comes as the Islamic Emirate has also expressed interest in strengthening political and economic ties with India, calling it a "significant regional and economic power".

The recent talks between India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and the Islamic Emirate Foreign Minister Mawlavi Amir Khan Muttaqi reportedly focused on expanding trade and leveraging Iran's Chabahar port, which India has been developing to bypass Pakistan's Karachi and Gwadar ports.

According to Indian government data, in 2020-21, before the Islamic Emirate takeover, the value of exports to Afghanistan stood at $825.78 million and imports at $509.49 million.

India's exports fell sharply to $554.47 million in 2021-22, $437.05 million in 2022-23 and



$355.45 million in 2023-24.

Conversely, imports from Afghanistan have seen a steady increase from $509.49 million to $510.93 million in 2021-22 and an all-time high of $642.29 million in 2023-24; the only exception being 2022-23 when imports saw a drop of $58.12 million to $452.81 million.

Before this, the last time India saw a trade deficit ($0.73 million) with Afghanistan was in 2000-01.

During the period of 2023 – 2024, the top items Afghanistan exported to India were mainly agricultural products such as figs, asafetida, raisins, apples, garlic, saffron, fennel seeds, almonds, apricots, onions, pomegranates and walnuts. Last year, Afghanistan has exported 29,123 tons of figs and almonds and other agricultural products to India.

Based on Indian media reports, India's bilateral trade with Afghanistan rose to its all-time high of $1.5 billion in 2019-20, just before the Covid-19 outbreak.

In the following years, it fell to $1.3 billion during the second Covid wave in 2020-21 and $1.06 billion in 2021-22. It fell below the 1 billion mark to $889 million in 2022-23 but again rose to $997.74 million in 2023-24.

In the first seven months of the current year, the bilateral trade between the two countries has reached $517.32 million.

It is worth mentioning that bilateral trade of $997.74 million between the two countries during 2023-24 accounted for just 0.09% of India's total $1,115-billion trade, and Kabul ranked 82nd among New Delhi's trading partners.

This comes as the first rail transit shipment from India has recently entered Afghanistan through the Shamtigh rail border in Iran's Khorasan Razavi Province. The shipment consists of six containers of almonds and oilseeds.

After crossing the Shamtigh rail border in the northeastern Iranian city of Khaf, the shipment reached last week the Roozanak station in Herat, Afghanistan.

The cargo was initially transported from India by ship to Bandar Abbas, southern Iran, and then transferred via Iran's rail network to Afghanistan. With the operational launch of the Khaf-Herat rail corridor earlier this year, the consortium has facilitated the transit of over 30,000 tons of export and transit cargo between Iran and Afghanistan by rail.

Sayed Sharif

Economic sanctions; the West's open hostility towards Afghan people

The economic sanctions that have been imposed by Western countries on Afghanistan are not just economic pressures but are part of a larger international effort aimed at weakening the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and questioning the country's independence.

Western countries, especially the United States, want to use these sanctions to force Afghans to rely solely on international aid to run their economy.

This is to weaken the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and send a message to the people that without Western aid, Afghanistan will not make any progress.

Nevertheless, if we look at Afghanistan's natural resources, the reality is different. Afghanistan is a country rich in gold, copper, coal, lithium and other valuable materials, the value of which reaches billions of dollars.

Afghans can use these resources not only for economic independence, but also for the development of the country in accordance with Islamic values. Developing these natural resources is an important task for Afghans to use their resources despite Western sanctions and pressures.

Afghanistan is also among the countries in the world that have significant development of their agricultural products.

This shows that Afghans can strengthen their economy with their own internal resources. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan understands that the West is trying to push the country into economic difficulties through sanctions, but the leaders of the Islamic Emirate believe that Afghanistan can resist these pressures through its natural resources and internal strengths.

There has been considerable progress in areas such as agriculture, mining, and trade in the past over three years, and this is an opportunity for the Islamic Emirate to independently strengthen its economy and forge its own path against external pressures.

The main goal behind the Western economic sanctions is to crush the hopes of the Afghans and to use them as a method of mental domination.

The sanctions, which focus on blocking banking, international trade relations and resources, make it difficult for Afghans to meet their daily needs, but the main goal of the Western countries' policy is to not only put economic pressure on the Islamic Emirate, but also to negatively affect the moral of the entire nation.

But the Islamic Emirate has a plan for an independent economic strategy despite the West's sanctions.

It focuses more on using domestic resources, such as mining, agriculture, and expanding trade within the country.

Afghanistan, which relies on rich potential in mining, agriculture, and other natural resources, can move its economy toward independence despite Western pressure.

Today, the people of Afghanistan know the West's two-faced policy and better know that the main cause of their problems lies in the Western countries' policies.

Afghans will continue to unite in support of their Islamic system. Afghans must support their Islamic system in the face of these difficult circumstances, promote economic growth through domestic production, and continue to unite against the conspiracies of the West, as we as Afghans can open the way for our country to develop by supporting an independent Islamic system.

To strengthen the country's economy and resist the Western countries' sanctions, all Afghans must use their internal strength, create investment opportunities, and expand trade based on their own interests rather than foreign agreements. This is not only necessary to alleviate economic problems, but is also vital for the country's self-reliance.

To this end, the Islamic Emirate is working together with its people to believe in its own capabilities and move independently against foreign conspiracies.

Fida Mohammad

The importance of lifelong learning in a rapidly changing world



A decade or two ago, professions remained relatively stable. The knowledge and skills acquired in educational institutions were often sufficient for decades. However, today's world is evolving at an unprecedented pace.

Careers and industries undergo changes not just yearly but monthly and even weekly. This rapid transformation has made lifelong learning a necessity rather than an option.

Lifelong learning, or "continuous education," is the process of acquiring knowledge and skills throughout one's life.

It is no longer enough to rely solely on the education received in school or university.

Individuals must adopt the habit of continuous learning to remain relevant and competitive in their respective fields.

However, lifelong learning is itself a skill that many people have not mastered. Developing this skill is essential for career growth, personal development, and adapting to technological advancements.

There are two primary approaches to achieving lifelong learning: institutional support and self-directed efforts.

Educational institutions such as schools and universities must evolve to accommodate the concept of lifelong learning.

Beyond teaching fundamental subjects, these institutions should focus on equipping students with the ability to learn continuously.

To achieve this, academic curricula should include methodologies that help students develop self-learning skills.

This means teaching students how to research, think critically, and adapt to new information effectively.

By doing so, students will not only master their immediate subjects but will also develop the ability to acquire new knowledge throughout their lives.

While institutions play a crucial role, individuals must also take responsibility for their own learning. There are several ways to develop lifelong learning habits, including:

1. Consistent reading and research: Engaging in regular reading helps individuals stay updated on industry trends, technological advancements, and global developments.

2. Online courses and workshops: Platforms such as Coursera, Udemy, and edX offer flexible learning opportunities that allow professionals to gain new skills at their own pace.

3. Identifying knowledge gaps: Individuals should regularly assess their strengths and weaknesses within their fields and seek to improve areas where they lack expertise.

4. Networking and collaboration: Engaging with industry experts, participating in discussions, and attending seminars can provide insights into emerging trends.

5. Staying informed about industry trends: Subscribing to professional journals, following thought leaders, and joining professional organizations can help individuals keep up with changes in their respective fields.

In a rapidly evolving world, those who master the art of lifelong learning stand out from the rest. Employers value individuals who demonstrate a willingness to acquire new skills and adapt to change. Continuous learning fosters creativity, innovation, and problem-solving abilities, which are essential for career progression.

Furthermore, lifelong learning contributes to personal growth and fulfillment. It enhances cognitive abilities, keeps the mind sharp, and opens doors to new opportunities.

Individuals who embrace learning as a lifelong habit often find themselves more confident and prepared to tackle challenges in both their professional and personal lives.

Lifelong learning is no longer a luxury but a necessity in today's dynamic world. The rapid pace of change in industries and professions requires individuals to continually update their skills and knowledge.

Whether through formal education or self-directed efforts, mastering the skill of lifelong learning is crucial for career advancement and personal development. By embracing continuous education, individuals can remain competitive, adaptable, and ready to face the future.

Mukhtar Safi

Pul-e Artel: A bridge that connects more than just roads

Part I

Kabul is a city where history and daily life intertwine in every street, market, and corner. Among its many familiar landmarks, Pul-e Artel stands out—not as a grand monument or a towering structure, but as a bridge that has silently witnessed the city's changing tides. It is a place where thousands pass every day, unaware that they are walking on a piece of Kabul's story.

The name "Pul-e Artel" has been spoken by Kabulis for generations, yet few pause to consider its origins. Some say the word "Artel" came from foreign engineers who worked on infrastructure projects decades ago, while others believe it holds a deeper connection to Afghanistan's past. Regardless of its name, the bridge itself has been an integral part of the city's fabric for many years.

It is unclear when exactly Pul-e Artel was first built, but it has long been a crucial crossing point over the Kabul River. Decades ago, Kabul was a quieter city, with fewer vehicles and a slower pace of life. Back then, the bridge was used more by pedestrians and cyclists, linking communities on either side of the river. Over time, as the city expanded and modernized, Pul-e Artel became a vital passage for cars, motorcycles, and the constant movement of people who make Kabul the vibrant city it is today.

From early morning until late at night, Pul-e Artel is never silent. It is a bridge where the pulse of Kabul can be felt most strongly. Before the sun rises, laborers cross it on their way to work, shopkeepers open their stores in the nearby markets, and tea vendors prepare their stalls. As the city wakes up, the bridge becomes a meeting place for countless lives—students hurrying to classes, taxi drivers weaving through traffic, families on their way to visit relatives, and vendors calling out to potential customers.

One of the defining sights of Pul-e Artel is its street sellers. Men stand by the bridge holding stacks of books, offering both school textbooks and novels to passersby. Others sell fresh fruits, nuts, or hot tea, making their living by catering to the endless crowd. Young boys weave between cars, selling phone credit cards or polishing shoes, their faces full of energy and determination.

For many, Pul-e Artel is part of their routine. There are those who cross it every day without a second thought, lost in their own worries or conversations. And then there are those who pause for a moment, leaning against the railing to watch the Kabul River below—a river that, like the bridge, has seen Kabul through both its calm and stormy days.

Pul-e Artel has seen Kabul transform over the years. It has stood through moments of hope and prosperity, as well as times of hardship and uncertainty. The city around it has changed—new buildings have risen, roads have been expanded, and the number of cars and people using the bridge has grown.

Sumita Balouch



THE KABUL TIMES DAILY
Hoot 01-1403 Wednesday 19 February 2025 INo: 279-Vol: LXII

USD	GBP	INR	PKR	EUR	IRR	AED
01	01	1000	1000	01	1000	01
AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN
73.75	92.99	848	253	77.11	01.34	20.08



Mohammad Nabi hints at possible ODI retirement after Champions Trophy

Afghanistan's star all-rounder Mohammad Nabi has suggested that the upcoming Champions Trophy could mark his final appearance in One Day Internationals (ODIs). In a recent interview with the International Cricket Council (ICC), Nabi stated that he is evaluating his fitness and performance before making a final decision on whether to continue playing ODIs or retire from the format.

The 40-year-old cricketer reflected positively on his performances over the past year, highlighting his contributions to Afghanistan's success on the international stage.

He emphasized that his decision regarding ODI retirement would be based on his physical condition and ability to contribute effectively to the team.

Nabi's remarks come after his previous statement in November last year, where he indicated that he might retire from ODIs following the conclusion of the Champions Trophy.

As one of Afghanistan's most experienced players, his potential departure from the ODI format would mark the end of an era for Afghan cricket.

Having played a crucial role in Afghanistan's rise in international cricket, Mohammad Nabi remains a key figure in the squad. His vast experience, leadership, and all-round abilities have been instrumental in shaping the team's performance in global tournaments.

Fans and cricket analysts are now closely watching Nabi's decision, as his presence in the team has been invaluable. If he decides to retire, Afghanistan will have to find a suitable replacement to fill the gap left by one of their most iconic players.

Regardless of his final decision, Nabi's contributions to Afghan cricket will always be remembered as a defining chapter in the nation's sporting history.

The Kabul Times



Self-defense martial arts championship held in Faryab



A self-defense martial arts competition was held in Faryab province, featuring 82 athletes competing across various weight categories and age groups, including teenagers, youth, and adults.

The tournament brought together skilled martial artists from different regions, showcasing their abilities and discipline in self-defense techniques. The event aimed to promote martial arts and encourage young athletes to develop their skills in the sport.

At the conclusion of the competition, athletes from Maimana city secured first place with 14 points, while Khwaja Musa district claimed second place with 8 points. Qaisar district finished in third place with 6 points.

The success of this event highlights the growing interest in martial arts in Afghanistan and the dedication of local athletes. Organizers hope to continue hosting such competitions to further develop the sport and provide more opportunities for young martial artists to compete at higher levels.

The Kabul Times

Afghan Taekwondo athletes shine in Asian Open Championship

Hekmatullah Zain and Ahsam Rahimi, Afghanistan's national Taekwondo athletes, have successfully defeated their Pakistani opponents in the Asian Open Taekwondo Championship held in Pakistan, advancing to the next round of the competition.

Both athletes competed in different weight categories on Tuesday against strong Pakistani contenders.

Their victories not only secured their progression in the tournament but also strengthened their chances of winning medals in this prestigious competition.

The 7th edition of the Asian Open Taekwondo Championship is currently taking place in Islamabad, featuring participants from 27 countries. Afghan Taekwondo athletes have already demonstrated



outstanding performances, having won four gold medals so far in the event.

Afghanistan's success in this championship highlights the dedication, skill, and resilience of its athletes, reinforcing the country's growing presence in international Taekwondo competitions.

With continued strong performances, the national team aims to further enhance its medal tally and bring pride to Afghanistan on the global stage. **The Kabul Times**

Kabul, Tehran stress enhancing bilateral relations

KABUL: The acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, Mawlavi Amir Khan Muttaqi, during a meeting with Alireza Bikdeli, the Iranian Ambassador to Kabul, discussed strengthening of bilateral relations, the ministry said in a statement Tuesday.

According to the statement, the meeting discussed several key issues including expanding cooperation in various sectors, facilitating trade transactions, providing convenience to Afghan and Iranian traders and investors, expanding transit corridors, and fundamentally improving relations between the two countries.

Both sides emphasized increasing cooperation in the health and agriculture sectors and exchanging experiences.

The relations between the two neighboring countries have been expanding day by day for more than three years.

The Kabul Times



Winter storm in US kills at least 14 people, officials say

The death toll from powerful winter storms in the central and eastern United States has risen to at least 14, officials said Monday, after floods, gale-force winds and bitterly cold temperatures swept the region.

The National Weather Service (NWS) warned on Monday of a winter storm system carrying arctic air that would cause "record cold," with wind chill expected to hit as low as -60 degrees Fahrenheit (-51 degrees Celsius) in Montana and North Dakota.

"I've got more tough news. The death toll in Kentucky has now risen to 12," said Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear in a social media post on Monday, raising the toll from eight a day earlier.

West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey said on Monday his state had also seen at least one death from the weather. "We have one confirmed fatality at this time," he told a press briefing, warning that further flooding was expected. "There are still several people who are missing."

In addition, one person died in the southern city of Atlanta, Georgia. The victim was killed when an "extremely large" tree fell on his house early Sunday, fire official Scott Powell told local media.

Most of the dead in Kentucky, Beshear said in an earlier news conference, drowned when trapped in their vehicles by fast-rising floodwaters.

The victims included a mother and her child.

The governor urged people to stay off roads across the state, where local and federal authorities have declared a state of emergency.

Beshear said more than 1,000 people had been rescued by first responders within 24 hours. **Alarabiya**

Egypt developing Gaza reconstruction plan to counter Trump's 'take over'



The Egyptian government is developing a plan to rebuild Gaza without displacing the Palestinian enclave's population, as it attempts to provide a viable alternative to United States President Donald Trump's controversial proposal to "take over" the territory and displace its population.

Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs Badr Abdelatty said Cairo is "actively developing a comprehensive, multi-phase plan for Gaza's early recovery and reconstruction", the state-run Al-Ahram newspaper reported on Monday.

The newspaper added that Egypt expects to finalise the plan "by next week", while its first phase should begin "after the emergency Arab summit in Cairo", currently scheduled for February 27.

Before that, Saudi Arabia will host officials from Egypt, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan on Thursday, as part of a five-way Arab meeting in the capital Riyadh to discuss Cairo's proposed reconstruction.

Trump has caused international uproar since he returned to the White House in late January, as he has repeatedly suggested the US could "take over" and "own" Gaza, permanently resettle its Palestinian population of more than 2 million people, and redevelop the enclave into a holiday destination.

Trump has pressured both Egypt and Jordan to take in Gaza's residents as part of the plan, in a proposal robustly rejected by both countries and decried as "ethnic cleansing" by rights groups. **Aljazeera**

Bus crash in Bolivia kills at least 30 people

More than 30 people have been killed in a bus crash on a mountain road in Bolivia, police say.

The vehicle plunged almost 800m (2625 ft) into a ravine the southwestern district of Yocalla, an officer said.

Fourteen people were also injured, including four children, an official from a local hospital said in a video.

Bolivia has notoriously dangerous roads, particularly in mountainous areas.

The accident happened between the cities of Potosí and Oruro, police said.

Officials believe that the crash could have been caused by speeding, with the driver "unable" to control the bus, police colonel Victor Benavides told the AFP news agency.

This is believed to be the most serious road accident reported in the South American country so far this year.



Local news outlet Unitel reported that several of those injured were in a serious condition.

Deadly road accidents are common in Bolivia.

Last month, 19 people were killed when another bus came off a road, also near Potosí.

Road accidents kill an average of 1,400 people every year in the country of about 12 million inhabitants, according to government data.

BBC